

# Creating Social Media Boards within DisasterLAN

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*Ebola Outbreak Use Case*

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## Introduction

This is the first in a series of documents aimed to illustrate the many ways the Status Board module in DisasterLAN (DLAN) can be used. Each document will go through a real world example and result in the creation of a Status Board that can be put to use by emergency managers.

This paper will provide step-by-step instructions on how to create social media status boards within DLAN. It uses the recent global Ebola outbreak as a model use case.

Section 1 will go over how to add Twitter subscriptions. For this example the Vox.com article titled “29 Twitter accounts you should follow to understand the Ebola outbreak<sup>1</sup>” will be used. When there is any major crisis or event, online media outlets such as Vox.com often publish compilations of Twitter accounts related to the topic. These article are a good way to find out who are the major news sources for a given topic.

The accounts in the Vox.com article are broken up into four categories: reports from West Africa, news and analysis, organizations fighting Ebola and American media sources. Four Twitter subscriptions will be created based on these categories.

Section 2 will go over how to use these subscriptions to create Status Board panels. Four panels will be created using each of the subscriptions from Section 1. The final Status Board can be used to monitor relevant and accredited social media accounts related to the Ebola outbreak.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.vox.com/2014/8/7/5974963/ebola-outbreak-virus-twitter-accounts-list-follow-symptoms-who-news-facts>

## Section 1: Creating Twitter subscriptions within DisasterLAN

1. Navigate to Admin -> Status Board -> Status Board Subscriptions.



Figure 1: Navigation

2. Click the Add button.

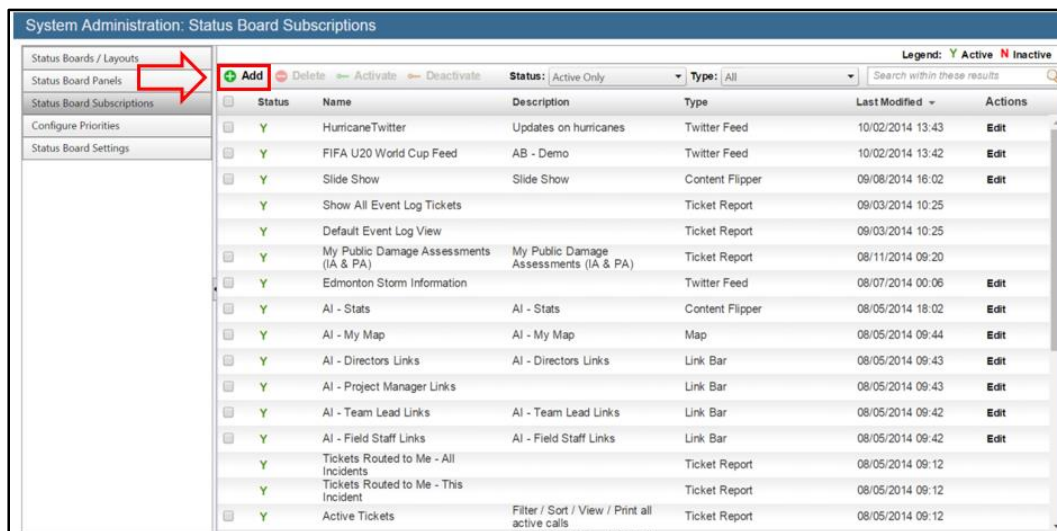


Figure 2: Add Subscription

3. Fill out the Name and Description fields.
4. For the Subscription Type field select the "Twitter Feed" option.
5. For the Account field select the twitter user account you wish to be tied to this feed.
6. Uncheck the "Is User-feed?:" checkbox.

The screenshot displays the Twitter API v1.1 interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with buttons: Add, Delete, Activate, Deactivate, Status: Active Only, Type: All, and a search bar. Below this is a table of subscriptions. The 'Add Subscription' dialog box is open, and several fields are highlighted with red boxes and arrows labeled 'step 1' through 'step 6'.

**Subscription Table:**

Status	Name	Description	Type	Last Modified	Actions
Y	RelfordMcFadden	RelfordMcFadden	Twitter Feed	16 October 2014 05:00 PM	Edit
Y				16 October 2014 05:00 PM	Edit
Y				16 October 2014 05:00 PM	Edit
Y				16 October 2014 05:00 PM	Edit
Y				16 October 2014 05:00 PM	Edit
Y				16 October 2014 12:16 PM	
Y				07 October 2014 12:16 PM	
Y				29 August 2014 09:09 PM	Edit
Y				2 August 2014 11:11 AM	Edit
Y				27 August 2014 01:29 PM	
Y				25 August 2014 11:17 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit
Y				22 August 2014 09:08 AM	Edit

**Add Subscription Dialog Box:**

- Save** **Cancel**
- Name:** Reports from West Africa
- Description:** Reports from West Africa
- Subscription Type:** Twitter Feed
- Font Color:** [Black]
- Background Color:** [White]
- Account:** Relford McFadden
- Auto-Deactivation:** ☒ None ☐ Number of Messages ☐ Hours Back
- Add to Comm Center?:** ☐
- Is User-feed?:** ☐
- Keywords:** [Empty]
- Followed Accounts:** @BateFelix

7. In a new browser window open the list of twitter accounts compiled by vox.com.

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Vox

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014

Get Vox in your inbox!

email address

GO

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## 29 Twitter accounts you should follow to understand the Ebola outbreak

Updated by [Susannah Locke](#) on August 11, 2014, 1:20 p.m. ET [@susannahlocke](#) [susannah@vox.com](mailto:susannah@vox.com)

TWEET (250)

SHARE (164)

+1

LINKEDIN

EMAIL

PRINT

DON'T MISS STORIES. FOLLOW VOX!

Like

Follow

159K followers

email address

GO

By signing up, you agree to our [terms](#).

The deadliest Ebola outbreak in history is going on right now, and the efforts to contain it will be underway for quite some time. If you want to stay up-to-date, [this Twitter list](#) is a great place to start for English-language news, analysis, and first-person reports.

Check it out below. Or [click here](#) to subscribe to the list on Twitter.

(We may continue to add names to the actual Twitter list without adding them below. So please subscribe to the [list](#) for updates.)

### Reports from West Africa

1) **Umaru Fofana**

Sierra Leonean journalist, writing for BBC & Reuters

72

Ways Food

CAN CHANGE the

WORLD

EATER

Figure 4: Vox Article

8. Since the Vox article is broken up into 4 sections we will create 4 different subscriptions in DisasterLAN. Enter in the recommended twitter accounts for the “Reports from West Africa” section of the article into the “Followed Accounts:” field in DisasterLAN.
9. After all accounts under the section are added click the Save button to save the twitter subscription.
10. Repeat this process adding the “News and analysis” section as its own subscription, the “Organizations fighting Ebola” section as its own subscription and finally the “The American Angle” section as its own subscription.

## Section 2: Creating Status Board within DisasterLAN that displays the Twitter feeds.

1. Navigate to Admin -> Status Board -> Status Board Layouts.

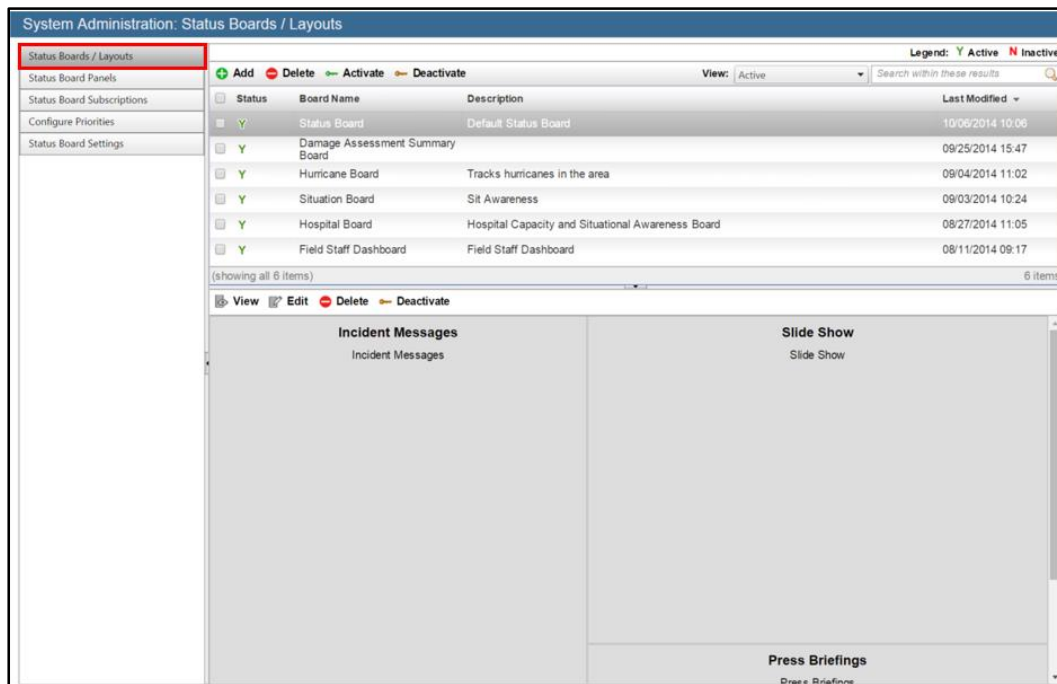


Figure 5: System Administration

2. Click Add.

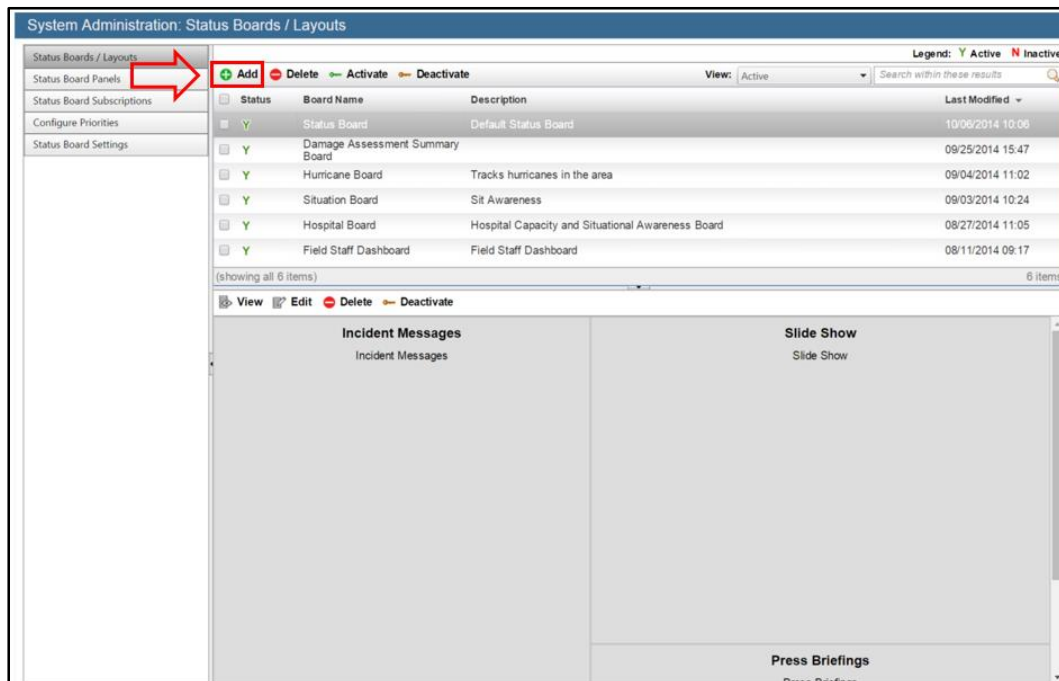


Figure 6: Add Status Board/Layout

3. Enter an “Ebola Outbreak Tracker” as the board name. Enter a description.
4. For the “Target Layout:” fields select the Wide option.
5. Click the Open Layout Designer button.

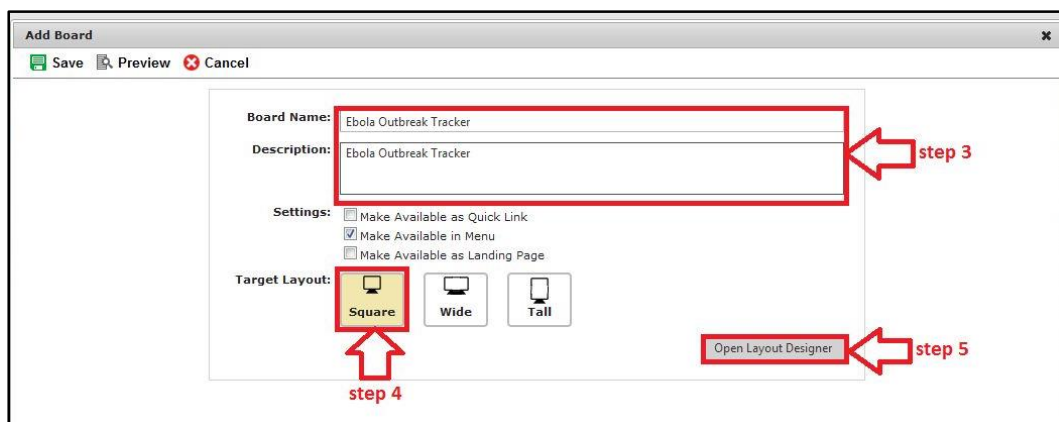


Figure 7: Layout Designer

6. Click the “Add Panel” button.

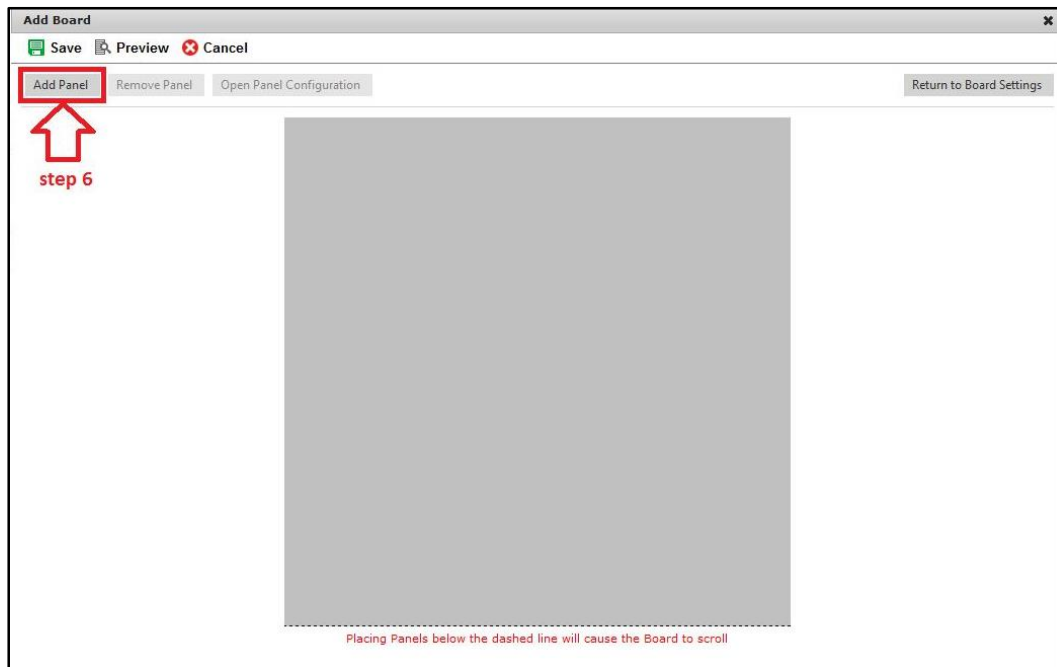


Figure 8: Add Panel

7. Select the new panel by clicking on it. Once the panel is selected click the “Open Panel Configuration” button.

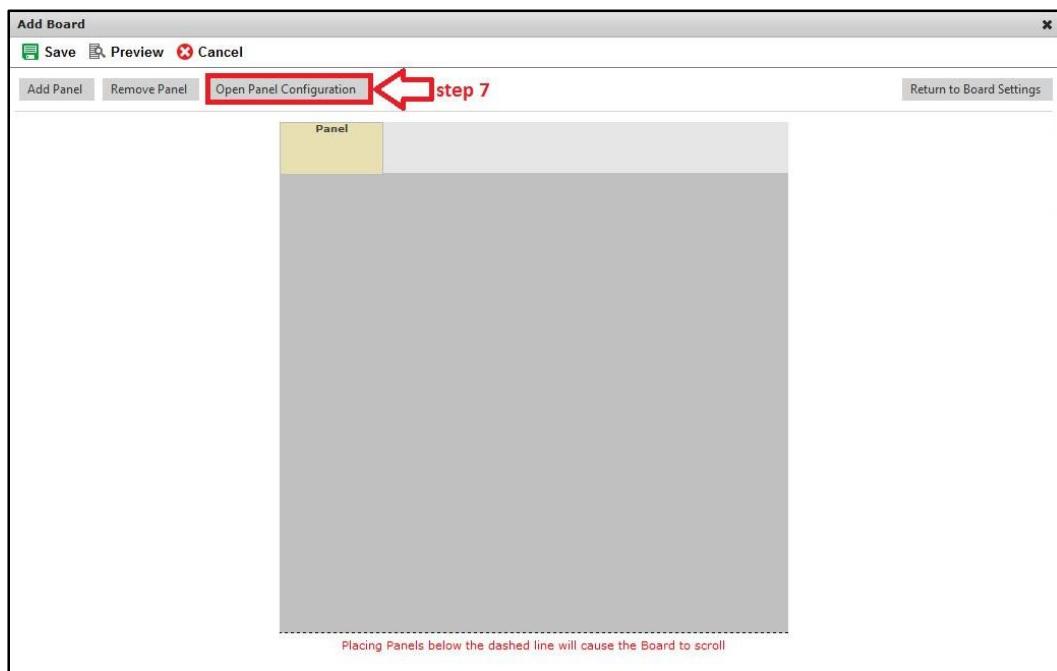


Figure 9: Open Panel Configuration

8. Enter a name and description for the panel. Select “Vertical Text Scroller” option for the Presentation Mode field.

The screenshot shows the 'Add Board' window with a 'Panel' tab selected. A 'Panel Settings' dialog box is open, titled 'New Panel Settings'. It contains the following fields and options:

- Panel:** Add New Panel (dropdown)
- Show Header:** Yes (selected), No (radio buttons)
- Name:** (text input field, highlighted with a red box)
- Description:** (text input field, highlighted with a red box)
- Presentation Mode:** Vertical Text Scroller (dropdown menu, highlighted with a red box)
- Auto Scroll Pause Interval:** Medium (dropdown)
- Scroll By Item Speed:** Medium (dropdown)
- Scroll By Page Speed:** Fast (dropdown)
- Subscriptions:**
  - Show: ☐ Selected Only
  - Search: (text input)
  - List of subscriptions: All, 15800 Weather Report Test, 18575 - gen message, aasdfx, Bob Messages 2, Bob's Gen Messages Sub

A red arrow points from the text 'step 8' to the 'Presentation Mode' dropdown menu.

Figure 10: New Panel Settings A

9. In the list of Subscriptions select the “Reports from West Africa” twitter subscription created in section 1.

10. Click the Save button.

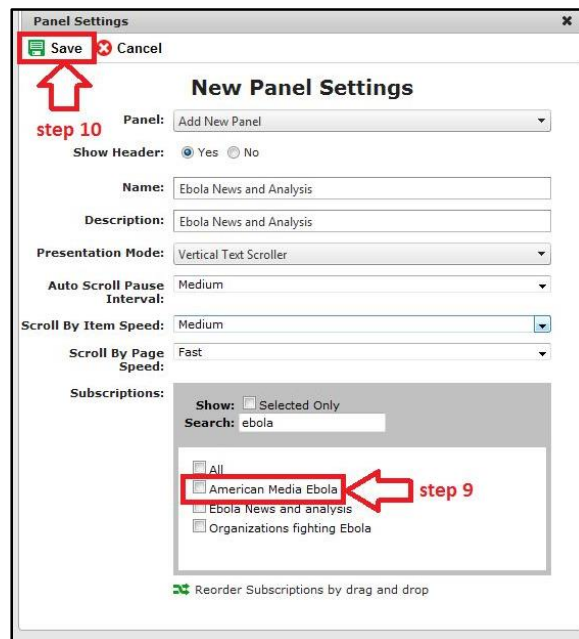


Figure 11: New Panel Settings B

11. Repeat steps 6 through 10. Create a panel for each subscription created in section 1. You should have 4 different panels tied to 4 different twitter subscriptions when finished.
12. Click the “Return to Board Settings” button. Click the Save button on the “Edit Board” dialog.

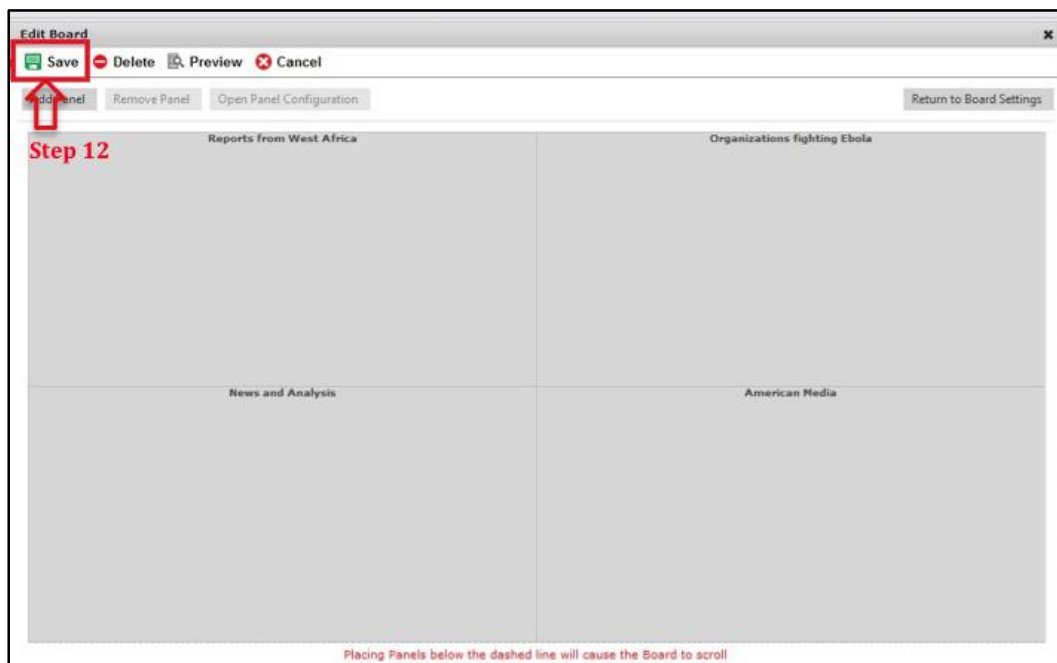


Figure 12: Save Board

13. Congratulations you now have a fully functional status board that tracks relevant social media accounts for important up to the minute information on the Ebola outbreak.



Figure 13: Finished Status Board

## Conclusion

This document uses accounts found within a Vox.com article to create a Status Board specifically tailored to track information about the Ebola outbreak. The same steps can be used to create a status board to track any major incident or event, as well as other types of information. For example, if an emergency manager wanted to monitor local news stories all he/she would have to do is find appropriate Twitter accounts to add to a subscription and then use the above steps to create a Status Board panel that would display these feeds.

The Ebola Outbreak Tracker board only displays panels with Twitter subscriptions, however the Status Board allows users to mix different types of content. For example, a map panel could be added to this board to track where new cases of Ebola have been reported. DLAN's Status Board module gives users all the tools they need to create custom boards that can monitor the information that is most important to them.